

Colonel Philip Smith was born in Lawrence, Kansas on 10 March 1955. In February 1974, he enlisted in the Marine Corps from Houston, Texas and graduated in May from Platoon 2022, RTR, San Diego, California as a PFC. He then served as fireteam leader in Echo Company, 2d Battalion, 7th Marines and as fireteam leader, squad leader and Training NCO in Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 3d Marines from 1975-1977.

From 1977 to 1979, Colonel Smith served as a reconnaissance team leader, platoon sergeant and assistant operations chief in 2d Force Reconnaissance Company. He was promoted to Staff Sergeant in 1978 and selected for the Marine Enlisted Commissioning and Education Program in 1979.

Upon graduating from Texas A&M in 1982, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in History, Colonel Smith attended The Basic School and Infantry Officer course which he completed in March 1983. He served as 81mm mortar platoon commander for 2d Battalion, 8th Marines and conducted operations ashore in Grenada (Urgent Fury) and Beirut from 1983-1984. He also served as Weapons Platoon Commander and Executive Officer for Golf Company, 2d Battalion, 8th Marines until 1986.

Colonel Smith served as an Infantry Platoon Commander, Enlisted Instructor Company, Tactics Instructor and Staff Platoon Commander for Bravo and Echo Companies at The Basic School from 1986 to 1988. In 1988, he served as an instructor at Infantry Officer's Course and attended Amphibious Warfare School in 1990.

In June of 1991, Colonel Smith assumed command of Brutal Bravo, Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, conducted training in jungle, urban and desert environments, deployed to Okinawa as part of the unit deployment program and again in December 1992 to Somalia (Operation Restore Hope). In July 1993, Colonel Smith became the Operations Officer for 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, participating again in both CAX and unit deployment to Okinawa. From August 1994 to June 1997, he served as the Marine Officer Instructor at the Texas A&M University NROTC Unit.

Colonel Smith graduated an honor graduate and received a Masters of Military Studies from Command and Staff College, Marine Corps University, Quantico in June 1998. Colonel Smith returned to the Infantry Officer's Course as its Director from July 1998-July 1999. Colonel Smith served as Director, Warfighting Group at The Basic School from August 1999 to June 2000.

Colonel Smith served as commander of the Betio Bastards, 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marines from 7 July 2000 to 28 June 2002, participating in firefighting duties, conducting the assessment for the M4 Carbine for the Marine Corps and participating in the unit deployment program to Okinawa. He attended Marine Corps War College from August 2002 through June 2003 and received a Masters in Military Strategic Studies. He spent 2004 on the faculty at Command and Staff College.

From June 2004-July 2005, Colonel Smith performed duties as the Operations Officer for III MEF participating in UFL-04, Terminal Fury 05, Tsunami Relief--JTF 536, and Cobra Gold 05. In June 2006, Col Smith took command of 4th Marine Regiment in Okinawa Japan. In February 2007, he assumed the duties of the Regional Security Advisory Command -Central Afghanistan where it is expected he will serve until March 2008.

Colonel Smith's personal awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with two gold stars, Navy Marine Corps Commendation

Medal with three gold stars, Navy Marine Corps Achievement Medal with one gold star, and the Combat Action Ribbon with two gold stars.